

## Hurricane Outlook Predicts Above-Normal Season

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting an above-normal hurricane season in the Atlantic basin this year.

Across the entire Atlantic Basin for the six-month season, which began June 1, NOAA is predicting the following ranges this year:

— 12 to 18 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which:

— 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including:

— 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher)

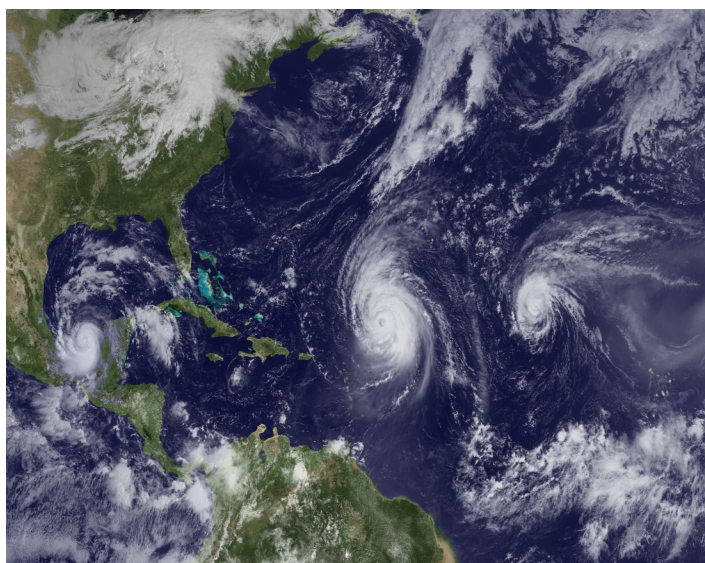
In light of these statistics, residents in Mexico need to be especially prepared for and stay aware of hurricane developments.

Below are some general tips on what to do before and during an actual hurricane:

**\*Register** with the U.S.

Embassy

**\*Create an emergency kit** that includes canned food and



water

**\*Designate** a safe haven in case you need to evacuate

**\*Secure your home:** Seal windows and doors, remove loose items from outside (patio furniture, etc.)

**\*Remain indoors** in an interior room on the lowest level

**\*Take cover** under a table or other sturdy object

**\*Do not venture outside** if there is a lull in the storm

For more info, see: [http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/eacs\\_emergency\\_preparedness.html](http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/eacs_emergency_preparedness.html)

Also, see: [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov) where you can sign up for Tweets from the National Hurricane Center regarding weather advisories.

## *Travel Tip*

### Mexico: “Know Before You Go!”

Millions of Americans visit Mexico safely each year. However, crime and violence affect many parts of the country, including both urban and rural areas. We encourage all U.S. citizens to phone home periodically to assure family members of your safety and inform them of your whereabouts. Remember, whether you travel to Mexico by land, air, or sea, you are entering a foreign country and are subject to the laws regulations of Mexico.

For more information see:

[Travel.state.gov](http://Travel.state.gov)

## Bienvenidos y Despedidas

Like most summers, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City is undergoing a transition as many officers are arriving at and departing from post. Ambassador Carlos Pascual de-

parted post, and on May 18, was appointed as the State Department's Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, where he advises Secretary Clinton

on energy issues, ensuring that energy security is advanced at all levels of U.S. foreign policy. Earl Anthony Wayne, the current Deputy (continued on page 2)





## America in Mexico: History through Art

America and Mexico have a long and involved history which is often evidenced by public art. This statue of Abraham Lincoln sits in Lincoln Park in Mexico City and was a gift from the U.S. Government. The park is in the Polanco neighborhood and is dedicated to President Lincoln. Readers with interesting examples of Americana in Mexico that they want to share, can send a photo and brief description for publication in the newsletter.

## San Miguel Consular Agency Move

After 25 years in downtown San Miguel de Allende, the U.S. Consular Agency is moving to a commercial office center at the perimeter of the city. The move began June 20, and it is estimated that the office will be up and running by the end of the month. The phone number and email address will stay the same.

The state of Guanajuato, in which San Miguel de Allende is located, sends more workers to the United States than any of the other states in Mexico. Accordingly, most of the agency's visitors are dual nationals, many of whom come from rural Guanajuato towns. In the past, when these individuals arrived in San Miguel, they have had a hard time finding the agency and finding parking because the city is very

crowded and there is little available space for parking. The new location, which is on the outskirts of town, will be easier to find and has a substantial amount of parking available. Further, the commercial business center provides free shuttle service from San Allende's downtown to the La Luciernaga Center every day except Tuesday.

The Agency's new address will be:  
U.S. Consular Agency  
Centro Comercial La Luciernaga  
Libramiento de San Miguel Manuel Zavala  
Locales 4 y 5  
San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato  
Tel: 415-152-2357

## List of American Organizations

**Below is a listing of clubs and associations with an international membership, along with their websites:**

**American Benevolent Society**  
[www.abs.org.mx](http://www.abs.org.mx)

**American Chamber of Commerce**  
[www.amcham.com.mx](http://www.amcham.com.mx)

**American Legion**  
[www.amlegion-mexico.org](http://www.amlegion-mexico.org)

**American Society of Mexico, A.C.**  
[www.americansocietyofmexico.com](http://www.americansocietyofmexico.com)

**Benjamin Franklin Library**  
<http://www.mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/library.html/>

**Hash House Harriers**  
[www.mchhh.com](http://www.mchhh.com)

**Newcomers Club**  
[www.newcomers.org.mx](http://www.newcomers.org.mx)

**Rotary International**  
[www.rotarymexico.com](http://www.rotarymexico.com)

**Salvation Army**  
[www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)

**YMCA**  
[www.ymca.org.mx](http://www.ymca.org.mx)

## Bienvenidos y Despedidas: continued from page 1

Ambassador in Kabul, has been nominated by President Obama as the new Ambassador to Mexico, and is awaiting Congressional approval. Edward McKeon, the Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, is leaving the Mission and retiring to suburban Maryland on July 15. Consul General Sean Murphy's last day was June 24. He will become the Deputy Chief of Mission in El Salvador. American Citizen

Services Chief, Christine Harold-Aluyen, is headed to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where she will be the Consul General. Our current Deputy ACS Chief, Sara Craig, is being promoted to ACS Chief, while Michael Garcia has moved up to the ACS unit and will become the Deputy Chief. Karin King, our current NIV Chief will replace Mr. Murphy.



*Mexico City's Consular Section at the Angel, symbol of the capital*



## Focus on Acapulco: Consular Agent Alexander Richards

Acapulco—officially known as Acapulco de Juárez—is the largest city in the state of Guerrero and a major seaport on the Pacific coast of Mexico, 190 miles south-west of Mexico City. Acapulco is located on a deep, semi-circular bay and has been an important port since the early colonial period of Mexico's history, serving as a port of call for both shipping and cruise lines running between Panama and California. Acapulco's bay, beautiful and majestic, is best known, however, as one of Mexico's oldest and most popular beach resort communities, having gained prominence by the 1950s as a getaway for Hollywood stars and millionaires. Today, Acapulco is more than just pristine beaches. It also has a wide variety of first-rate restaurants, one of the best night-life scenes in the world, and a long list of attractions and exciting activities.

Because of Acapulco's appeal, it is no wonder that hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens choose to visit the city every year. Some even decide to live there which, consequently, means that U.S. Consular services are needed—now more than ever. According to Alexander Richards, our U.S. Consular Agent in Acapulco, 12 years ago, most of the agency's work was with general tourists, with a few cases involving snowbirds over the winter, and a much larger number of spring break visitors who needed help in March and April. Nowadays, says Alex, the agency sees a lot of first-time passport applicants who are the children of migrant workers and a flood of welfare and whereabouts cases every time a security alert or alarming news report about the area is broadcast on television. The agency's work is also challenging, says Alex, because Acapulco is vulnerable to hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis, so they always need to be in touch with Protección Civil and the tourism association in case of any emergency.



*Consular Agent Alexander Richards and Consular Assistant Claudia Karina Hernández Ramírez in front of the U.S. Consular Agency in Acapulco.*

### A little about Alex:

Alex, who has been working at the U.S. Consular Agency in Acapulco since 1999, is from Cape Cod. He first came to Mexico as an exchange student in high school, and later returned to study at the Universidad de Las Américas in Puebla for a year. One year in Mexico turned into two, then three, etc. Finally, in 1995, Alex earned a law degree with a specialization in International Law and he continues to practice until this day. In 1996, Alex's girlfriend (now wife) invited him to her home in Acapulco for the weekend. Alex says, "I'm still here. Some houseguests just don't know when to leave." Currently, Alex and his wife have two children in grade school.

### Consular Agencies

There are 13 Consular Agencies in Mexico. The following four are in the Mexico City Consular District:

#### **Acapulco, Guerrero**

Tel: 01-744) 465-0556

E-mail: consular@prodigy.net.mx

#### **Ixtapa, Zihuatanejo:**

Tel: (01-755) 553-2100

E-mail: consularix-tapa@prodigy.net.mx

#### **Oaxaca, Oaxaca**

Tel: (01-951) 514-3054

E-mail: conagent@prodigy.net.mx

#### **San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato**

Tel (01-415) 152-2357

E-mail: consuladosma@gmail.com

## U.S. Embassy Mexico City

Paseo de la Reforma #305  
Col. Cuahatemoc  
Mexico, D.F. 06500

Phone: 55-5080-2000 ext. 4938  
Fax: 55-5080-2785  
E-mail: [acsmexicocity@state.gov](mailto:acsmexicocity@state.gov)

### Outreach Event



A representative from American Citizen Services represented the U.S. Embassy at the "Friendship Fair," hosted by First Christ Church in Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico City, on Saturday, June 11. Services for U.S. citizens as well as those for Mexican citizens were highlighted. The Embassy shared space with the American Benevolent Society, The American Legion, Democrats Abroad, and the Saint Andrews Society of Mexico City. Turnout for the event was very good, and visitors enjoyed live music, arts/crafts, a barbeque buffet, and a raffle for gifts donated by participants.

## Ceremony Honors Fallen Heroes



A ceremony to honor fallen heroes was held on Memorial Day at the American Battle Monuments Commission Cemetery in Mexico City. The American Battle Monuments Commission, established by the U.S. Congress in 1923, is an agency of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. The Commission—guardian of America's overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials—honors the service, achievements and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces. The ABMC cemetery in Mexico City is located at 31 Virginia Fabregas, Colonia San Rafael, about two miles west of the Metropolitan Cathedral and about a mile north of the U.S. Embassy.



*4th of July!*

Independence Day is just around the corner and Americans are gearing up for barbecues, fireworks, and parades, just to mention a few of the activities associated with this festive, summer holiday.

Did you know, however, that Independence Day, or the Fourth of July as it is more commonly known, came into being on the Second of July? The Second Continental Congress voted to approve

the legal separation of the 13 Colonies from Great Britain on July 2, 1776 and historians agree this is when American Independence actually occurred.

The Declaration of Independence, the second-most important document in the American historical archives after the Constitution, was approved two days later on July 4, and was widely publicized throughout the colonies. Americans quickly came to celebrate independence on this date.

Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration and America's third president, and John Adams, our second



president, both died on July 4, 1826, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing. They were the only two signatories to the Declaration to serve as presidents of the United States.